

Application No. 10/660,836
RCE to OA of 11/10/2005

Remarks

In the present response, five claims (1, 5, 8, 18, and 19) are amended; and two claims (6 and 11) are canceled. Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-20 are presented for examination. No new matter is entered.

I. Claims Rejection: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1 – 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,282,082 (Armitage) in view of USPN 6,498,719 (Bridges). Applicant respectfully traverses.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art cited must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See M.P.E.P. § 2143. Applicant asserts that the rejection does not satisfy these criteria.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites numerous recitations that are not taught or suggested in Armitage in view of Bridges. For example, claim 1 recites "wherein the bumper abuts against the foot in the open position to absorb force transmitted from the foot to the bumper." Nowhere does Armitage in view of Bridges teach or suggest a movable foot and a resilient bumper that absorbs force transmitted from the foot to the bumper.

In Armitage, "FIG. 16 depicts tablet computer system 800 supported on support surface 1602 by the two mini-stands depicted in FIG. 9" (col. 14, lines 23-25). Armitage does not teach or suggest a resilient bumper. In fact, Armitage does not even teach or suggest any bumpers.

In Bridges, FIGS. 2-4 teach a portable computer 10 having a base enclosure 12 with cushioning friction pads 24 and shock absorbing protrusions 22, 26. FIG. 2 also shows two legs (not numbered) that extend downwardly from the base enclosure 12.

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Nowhere does Bridges teach or suggest that the legs abut against the pads 24 when the legs are in the open position to absorb force transmitted from the legs to the pads. Further, nowhere does Bridges teach or suggest that the legs abut against the protrusions 22, 26 when the legs are in the open position to absorb force transmitted from the legs to the protrusions. In Bridges, the pads and the protrusions are separated from the legs and are, thus, incapable of absorbing shock from the legs.

Thus, the combination of Armitage and Bridges fails to teach or suggest all the recitations in claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Armitage in view of Bridges.

A dependent claim inherits the recitations of a base claim. Thus, for at least the reasons given in connection with independent claim 1, the dependent claims depending from claim 1 are also allowable over Armitage in view of Bridges.

Claim 8

Claim 8 recites numerous recitations that are not taught or suggested in Armitage in view of Bridges. For example, claim 8 recites "wherein the bumper absorbs shock from the foot." Nowhere does Armitage in view of Bridges teach or suggest a bumper that absorbs shock from a foot.

In Armitage, "FIG. 16 depicts tablet computer system 800 supported on support surface 1602 by the two mini-stands depicted in FIG. 9" (col. 14, lines 23-25). Armitage does not teach or suggest that a bumper absorbs shock from the mini-stands. In fact, Armitage does not even teach or suggest any bumpers.

As noted in connection with claim 1, FIGS. 2-4 of Bridges teach cushioning friction pads 24, shock absorbing protrusions 22, 26, and two legs (not numbered). Nowhere does Bridges teach or suggest that the pads 24 or protrusions 22, 26 absorb shock from the legs. In Bridges, the pads and the protrusions are separate from the legs and are, thus, incapable of absorbing shock from the legs.

Thus, the combination of Armitage and Bridges fails to teach or suggest all the recitations in claim 8. For at least these reasons, claim 8 is allowable over Armitage in view of Bridges.

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A dependent claim inherits the recitations of a base claim. Thus, for at least the reasons given in connection with independent claim 8, the dependent claims depending from claim 8 are also allowable over Armitage in view of Bridges.

Claim 13

Claim 13 recites numerous recitations that are not taught or suggested in Armitage in view of Bridges. For example, claim 13 recites "transmitting force applied to the computer from a movable foot to a fixed resilient bumper" (emphasis added). Nowhere does Armitage in view of Bridges teach or suggest transmitting a force from a movable foot to a resilient bumper.

In Armitage, "FIG. 16 depicts tablet computer system 800 supported on support surface 1602 by the two mini-stands depicted in FIG. 9" (col. 14, lines 23-25). Armitage does not teach or suggest transmitting a force from the mini-stands to a resilient bumper. In fact, Armitage does not even teach or suggest any bumpers.

As noted in connection with claim 1, FIGS. 2-4 of Bridges teach cushioning friction pads 24, shock absorbing protrusions 22, 26, and two legs (not numbered). Nowhere does Bridges teach or suggest that a force is transmitted from the legs to the pads 24 or protrusions 22, 26. In Bridges, the legs are separated from the pads and the protrusions and are, thus, incapable of transmitting a force to the pads or protrusions.

Thus, the combination of Armitage and Bridges fails to teach or suggest all the recitations in claim 13. For at least these reasons, claim 13 is allowable over Armitage in view of Bridges.

A dependent claim inherits the recitations of a base claim. Thus, for at least the reasons given in connection with independent claim 13, the dependent claims depending from claim 13 are also allowable over Armitage in view of Bridges.

Claim 18

Claim 18 recites numerous recitations that are not taught or suggested in Armitage in view of Bridges. For example, claim 18 recites "means for absorbing force transmitted to the means for elevating." Nowhere does Armitage in view of Bridges teach or suggest

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a means that is fixed to the back surface, is separated from the means for elevating, and absorbs force transmitted from the means for elevating.

In Armitage, "FIG. 16 depicts tablet computer system 800 supported on support surface 1602 by the two mini-stands depicted in FIG. 9" (col. 14, lines 23-25). Armitage does not teach or suggest means for absorbing.

As noted in connection with claim 1, FIGS. 2-4 of Bridges teach cushioning friction pads 24, shock absorbing protrusions 22, 26, and two legs (not numbered). The friction pads and the absorbing protrusions, however, do not include all of the elements of claim 18 regarding the means for absorbing. In other words, claim 18 recites means that is fixed to the back surface, is separated from the means for elevating, and absorbs force transmitted from the means for elevating. The pads and the protrusions in Bridges do not absorb force transmitted from the legs.

Thus, the combination of Armitage and Bridges fails to teach or suggest all the recitations in claim 18. For at least these reasons, claim 18 is allowable over Armitage in view of Bridges.

A dependent claim inherits the recitations of a base claim. Thus, for at least the reasons given in connection with independent claim 18, the dependent claims depending from claim 18 are also allowable over Armitage in view of Bridges.

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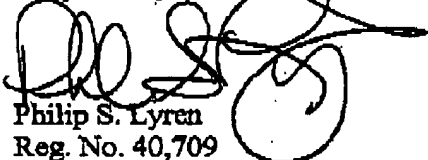
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. (281) 514-8236, Facsimile No. (281) 514-8332. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 571-273-8300 on this 10th day of January, 2006.

By 
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